Framing of rules to regulate hotel industry

1025. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to declassify such Hotels which have failed to extend adequate facilities to the tourists; and

(b) whether Government also propose to bring forward a comprehensive legislation to regulate the Hotel Industry to prevent fleecing of the tourists; if so, what are the main features thereof and by when it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (MUFTI MOHD. SAYEED): (a) The Department of Tourism have already prescribed regulatory conditions for hotels on its approved list, which provide for declassification/derecognition of hotels which fail to extend adequate facilities to the tourists.

(b) The question of introducing Central legislation to regulate the tourist industry is being examined.

Trade deficit

1026. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the trade deficit during 1986-87;

(b) the trade deficit expected by the end of the current year; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to increase exports and reduce trade deficit?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) According to the provisional data available from DGCI&S for the first ten months of the financial year 1986-87, India's trade deficit stood at Rs. 5834.14 crores during April-January, 1986-87, which is lower by Rs. 1227.63 crores as compared to the trade deficit of Rs. 7061.77 crores during April-January, 1985-86.

(b) It is difficult to estimate precisely the trade deficit with which we will end the current financial year 1987-88.

(c) A series of initiatives have been taken by the Government to promote exports. These are designed to generate surpluses for exports to induce the production of goods contemporary in technology and competitive in prices and to make the exports profitable. Simultaneously the Government has also initiated a series of steps to promote efficient import substitution, particularly in the sphere of bulk imports.

Inner-line permit system for Meghalaya

1027. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Meghalaya have sought the permission of the Government to introduce Inner-line Permit System in the State like other three North-Eastern States; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI): (a) and (b) Though the Chief Minister, Meghalaya has now and then mentioned about it, no formal proposal has yet been received.

Universities which have been assigned various roles under Ganga Action Plan

1028. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that universities in some of the towns and

cities situated on the course of the Ganga have been assigned a role under the Ganga Action Plan;

(b) if so, what are the names of the universities and the role assigned to them; and

(c) what have been the performance of the universities concerned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The ongoing programme of Integrated Study of the Ecosystem of Ganga is now being co-ordinated in the context of Ganga Action Plan with the objective of obtaining a biological profile of the river.

(b) Under this programme 13 universities situated on the banks of the river have undertaken studies through which physical, chemical and biological parameters of the river water are determined over a three year period. The list of universities and the stretches of the river assigned to them are as follows:—

1. Garhwal University, Srinagar, Garhwal.	Gangotri to Rishikesh (Bhagirathi, Alakananda, Ganga)
2. Gurukul Kangri Viswa Vidyalaya, Hardwar.	Rishikesh to Garhmukteswar.
3. University of Roorkee, Roorkee,	Badrinath to Devprayag (Alakananda & Garhmuteswar to Narora (Ganga).
4. Aligarh Muslim University.	Narora to Kannauj.
5. Feroz Gandhi College, Rai Bareili	Shuklaganj to Kalakankar (Kanpur to Parhtapgarh) being extended from Kalakankar to Phaphamau.
6. Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.	Mirzapur to Ballia.
7. Patna University, Patna.	Buxer to Barauni.
8. Bhagalpur University, Bhagalpur.	Barauni to Farakka.
9. Rajendra Agriculture University, Pusa (Samastipur)	Barh to Sultanganj.
10. University of Burdwan, Burdwan.	Berhampur to Katwa.
11. University of Kalyani, Kalyani, Nadia.	Katwa to Naihati.
12. University of Calcutta, Calcutta.	Bally to Bandel.
13. Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani, West Bengal.	Katwa to Bandel.

In addition Jadavpur University has been entrusted with the task of developing an instrumentation system for automatic monitoring of river quality.

(c) The progress of work is periodically reviewed by a Committee of Experts constituted for this purpose. The programme is as per schedule and is to be completed in 1988-89.

SAARC Secretariat at Kathmandu

1029. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether SAARC has set up a Secretariat at Kathmandu; and

(b) if so, how many Indians have been appointed in that Secretariat?